

Testimony of
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Finance, Revenue & Bonding Public Hearing
March 28, 2016

***In Opposition to SB 464 An Act Establishing the
Hartford Financial Sustainability Commission***

Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger and members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee, my name is Kirby Boyce. I am a Hartford city resident, Executive Vice President of the Greater Hartford Central Labor Council and Executive Officer of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists. I work at Pratt and Whitney as a machinist. I am opposed to SB 464 *An Act Establishing the Hartford Financial Sustainability Commission* because I do not think that the extreme measures called for in this proposed legislation is the right way to address our city's financial challenges.

Mayor Bronin does not need this legislation to achieve savings. The current labor law provides a fair and equitable framework for all parties involved. If the parties reach impasse and end up in arbitration, an independent panel resolves the dispute. The financial ability for the city to pay is factored into these awards. The mayor needs to give the unions a fair chance to negotiate and possibly identify savings that will help to protect services and maintain good-paying jobs.

As someone who works under a union contract, I strongly believe in collective bargaining and the benefits that it brings to working families throughout this state. And, I am particularly concerned that this legislation would not only harm current employees' rights but could undermine negotiated retirement benefits. Collective bargaining provides working people with a voice in the workplace. In the effort to achieve financial stability for the city, we also need to respect the rights of the men and women who dedicate their work day to making our capital city function.

Please reject SB 464. Thank you for consideration of my testimony.